

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-17, 19, 20 and 22-27 were rejected and claims 18 and 21 were objected to. Applicants note, however, that claim 25 had actually been previously canceled in the Response mailed on December 17, 2002. By the present Response, claims 1, 5-7, 17, 19, 21, 23 and 26 are amended, and claims 4 and 18 are canceled. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-3, 5-17, 19-24 and 26-27 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claims 18 and 21 would be allowable if written in independent form including any recitations of intervening claims. It is noted that claim 18 recited a feature by which a temperature sensor is disposed adjacent to a bearing element. This feature has been incorporated in similar manners into all of the independent claims 1, 17, 23 and 26 by the present amendments. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the present amendments place all of the pending claims in condition for allowance. Because the subject matter of claim 18 was incorporated into claim 17, claim 18 has been canceled without prejudice.

In view of the present amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/8/2003

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